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Thursday, March 7, 2013

Commander explains next 180 days in Schweinfurt

By Nathan Van Schaik, USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

SCHWEINFURT, Germany - It's been a full year since the Defense Department decided to close the Army garrison here and return it to the host nation. The impact on garrison services has been minimal thus far, in large part due to the efforts of the garrison workforce as well as unit support to fill the gaps. But changes are likely to become more evident as a gym, a dining facility, a post office and a crafts studio will all either be consolidated or taken offline by summer's

The garrison commander met with the workforce Feb. 21 at the Ledward theater as part of his quarterly All Hands meeting to present his road map for the next six months as the garrison draws down and readies for closure by October 2014.

Despite the planned changes in levels of service, the garrison team remains committed to giving community members access to quality and desired services and resources, Runey said.

The first issue the garrison commander addressed was the rumored consolidation of Ledward Barracks that would move Ledward offices, shops and facilities to Conn Barracks. While potentially a good idea to save on utility



Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. Michael Runey, tells employees here that 92 percent of all customer feedback forms through ICE are positive. Runey laid out his plan for service levels over the next six months at an All Hands employees meeting Feb. 21.

costs, the answer is simply no, said Runey.

"The reality is that we cannot afford it in terms of time, money and the disruption it would cause to our community. We can't move the medical clinic and dental clinic. It

just costs too much. The PX, it doesn't make sense to move it. The chapel has to stay here," said Runey.

But where the garrison commander and his (SCHWEINFURT, on Page 3)

Women's history, Red Cross

By Heidi Sanders, USAG Bamberg Public Affairs

BAMBERG, Germany U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg will celebrate Women's History Month with a luncheon from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 13 at the Warner Conference Center.

The guest speaker will be Kathleen Marin, the Region Director for Installation Management Command Europe.

The cost of the luncheon is \$10. Tickets can be purchased at the Cool Beans Café in the Community Activity Center, Building 7047.

Lunch is buffet style.

In addition to being Women's History Month. March American Red Cross Month.

Wudel, Samantha station manager for the American Red Cross Bamberg office, will give

a short presentation about Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, during the luncheon.

Wudel said she plans to speak briefly about the history of the Red Cross and about Barton's life and legacy.

"Before Women's suffrage she was able to establish the largest humanitarian single organization," Wudel said. "Most people aren't aware of how significant of a change a handful of strong women were able to make in the 1800s."

The Red Cross will also have an information table set up at the event, Wudel said, to provide information about the Red Cross and its role in the Bamberg community.

To learn more, call the Equal Opportunity Office at 0951-300-8624.

USAG Ansbach spouses take PT challenge



Brvan Gatchell / USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

Mandy Greer, in orange, an Army spouse at U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach, takes an early lead in the final physical training test Feb. 28 as part of the Spouse Physical Training Challenge. Greer ran two miles in approximately 13 minutes.

To read the full story, see Page 5.

USAREUR commander: 'Teamwork Equals Success'

Hello USAREUR Team,

Now that I've had the opportunity to travel around U.S. Army Europe to meet

many of our outstanding Soldiers, Civilians and Family Members, I'd like to share some thoughts on one of my command imperatives that are absolutely vital to our success, teamwork.

USAREUR is a team of teams, from the commanding general and command sergeant major to a rifle squad; we succeed or fail as a team. Setting the conditions for our subordinates ensures we succeed; allowing them to fail means we have failed together. None of us can do this alone. All of your leaders need your help and support just as you need halp from your higher headquarters.

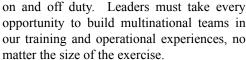
help from your higher headquarters so we can succeed whether in garrison or forward deployed.

An often used thought on teamwork is, "It's amazing what you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit." Most of you can think about what a strong team consists of. Descriptions vary, but common themes remain

true: individuals feel they are contributing towards mission accomplishment, open and two-way communication is commonplace,

> and team members have each others' backs - not only on good days - but bad days as well.

Europe, Here in we have the unique opportunity of belonging to a team that not only consists of our sister services, but our partners and allies in the 51 countries in the EUCOM area of responsibility. Take advantage of this and learn from experiences here both



Lt. Gen. Donald M.

Campbell Jr.

Building and maintaining strong teams requires self-reflection, voluntary selfimprovement, selfless service, and loyalty. All of these components are critical in leading U.S. Army Europe through our current challenges: budget constraints, reductions in the force structure, training focused on addressing future threats, and integrating women into combat positions. Strong Teams enable USAREUR to succeed through all of these efforts.

March is Women's History Month and celebrates women's contributions to our nation. I encourage all of you to attend ceremonies and observances in support of Women's History Month. When Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta lifted the ban on women serving in combat positions, he recognized the daily efforts women have already made in combat. Here in USAREUR, we are taking on the responsibility to successfully incorporate women into our combat arms. How USAREUR integrates women into these teams will be historic. Our goal must ensure all members - women and men - are ready to contribute and accomplish any mission, united together.

Strong Soldiers, Strong Teams!

- Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell, Jr.

U.S. Army Europe announces newest transformation actions

U.S. Army-Europe

HEIDELBERG, Germany – The Department of Defense announced March 1 U.S. Army Europe restructuring actions in 2013 involving units of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team.

Headquarters, Headquarters Company of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, and 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, both stationed at Caserma Ederle, Vicenza, Italy, will move to the Del Din (formerly known as Dal Molin) facility in Vicenza, Italy.

Both stationed in Bamberg, Germany, 173rd Special Troops Battalion and 173rd Brigade Support Battalion, will move to the Del Din facility in Vicenza, Italy.

From USAG Schweinfurt, 1st Squadron,

91st Cavalry Regiment, and 4th Battalion, 319th Field Artillery Regiment, of USAG Bamberg, will move to Grafenwoehr, Germany.

Remaining at Caserma Ederle in Vicenza, Italy, will be 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment.

The unit moves from Bamberg and Schweinfurt will enable the Army to continue to reshape USAREUR posture in line with our national defense strategy and to support combatant commanders, NATO and our European Allies. The moves will also facilitate the timely and cost-effective closure of DOD installations in Bamberg and Schweinfurt.

Incoming personnel of 173rd ABCT will be immediately assigned to these new locations.

In Italy, initial occupancy of Del Din begins in March with full operational capability planned for June 2013. U.S. Army-Europe expects moves to continue through the fall, as the units complete their reintegration process.

DOD'S February 2012 announcement reducing some 2,500 positions in enabling units in U.S. Army Europe, in addition to inactivating two infantry brigades, allowed USAREUR officials to adjust stationing plans to maximize the use of our most modern facilities in both Italy and Germany.

USAREUR will fully utilize the facilities under construction at Del Din, which has brought significant employment to the area.

The relocation of the two battalions (TRANSFORMATION, on Page 4)



Col. Kelly J. Lawler U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach, Commander

Lt. Col. Michelle L. Bienias U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg, Commander

Renate Bohlen USAG Bamberg, Public Affairs Officer Lt. Col. Michael Runey U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt, Commander

Nathan Van Schaik USAG Schweinfurt, Public Affairs Officer

Ansbach Staff Stephen Baack (Editor), Bryan Gatchell (Editor), Bianca Sowders

Bamberg Staff Simon Hupfer, Jessica Lipari Heidi Sanders

Schweinfurt Staff
Spc. Latoya Dallas, Margaret
Gotheridge

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Garrison Ansbach website at www.ansbach.army.mil.

All Family and MWR programs provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with special needs. For assistance please contact the facility manager prior to your visit.

Contact Information:

Office Location: Bldg. 5256, Barton Barracks U.S. Army Address: Unit 28614, APO AE 09177 Telephone: DSN:468-1600

German Address:

Meinhardswindener Str. 5256, 91522 Ansbach Telephone: 09811-83-1600

(SCHWEINFURT, from Page 1)

staff can shore up costs and prepare to close on time is in reducing service redundancies and turning off those that aren't being used. Currently, USAG Schweinfurt – like a small city – delivers Soldiers and civilians about 300 services in areas like medical, logistical, postal and recreation.

A garrison closure team tracks these services on a monthly basis to determine their operability up to six months in the future. It is the garrison commander's goal to keep the community informed up to 120 days in advance of any changes in operations or services. This is the status Lt. Col. Runey provided at the All Hands meeting.

SCHOOLS

The schools in Schweinfurt will operate next year during the 2013/2014 school offering education to all grade levels.

"Next year the plan is for both school buildings to be fully operational," Runey said. "So the schools will reorganize and their staffs will change to support kids."

Currently, Schweinfurt Elementary/Middle School on Askren Manor and Schweinfurt High School at Yorktown Village services about 1,000 students. Next year that number is expected to drop to about 600.

"As students start next year, we will provide a quality education for our kids at levels similar to what they are used to," Runey said.

LEDWARD DINING FACILITY

The Ledward DFAC, already closed on weekends, will close permanently March 19, 2013

"Because the troops are leaving Ledward, we have to close the Ledward DFAC," said Runey.

The primary function of Army DFACs is to provide three square meals a day to Soldier meal card holders. When the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion re-stationed in Grafenwoehr last summer, coupled with the deactivation of 172nd Brigade Combat Team, meal card usage plummeted and the numbers of Soldiers working in the kitchens dropped.

Service	Current Status	Summer 2013	Action	Remarks
nstallation Security Office			Modify	No Security Officer (S-2) at USAG Schweinfurt. Service covered by USAG Ansbach every Thursday.
ED/EEO Services			Modify	No Equal Employment Officer at USAG Schweinfurt. Service provided at USAG Ansbach.
DoDEA Schools			Possible Modification	Awaiting configuration concept approval from DoDEA
Postal Service Center			Possible Modification	Ledward Postal Services expected to close due to decreased population on Ledward. Postal services provided at Conn.
Dining Facilities (DFAC)			Reduce	Ledward DFAC to close March 19. Conn DFAC to remain open.
Military Personnel Services (Bidg. 40)			Modify	Currently operating with Soldier support.
Fitness Centers			Reduce	Kessler Fitness Center to close by July 2013. Finney Fitness Center to remain open at Conn Barracks.
Arts and Crafts Center			Discontinue	Closure due to staff retirement, no back-fill available.
Warrior Zone			Modify	Warrior Zone at Ledward will merge with the Finney Recreation Center Aug. 2013
Service pro	vided			
Service mod	dified o	r reduce	d	
Service con	ducted	outside	of Schwei	nfurt/Bamberg
Service not				

The Conn DFAC will remain open up through closure.

KESSLER FITNESS.

The Kessler Fitness Center must close by July and staff will move over to the Finney Fitness Center.

"Again, because only very few Soldiers will remain at Ledward — and that's the fitness facility to service them — that's why we're closing Kessler," said Runey.

POSTAL

There are two post offices and two community mail rooms at USAG Schweinfurt. As the Schweinfurt military community continues to shrink, there will be less of a need to provide them all. The Ledward post office and community mail room will close by the late summer of 2013 and consolidate onto Conn.

"While we modify it, for most people – because our population will be lower – it will feel like the line waits will be about what they are now," said Runey.

MILITARY PERSONNEL SERVICES (BLDG. 40)

Services will continue but may be modified

as the population dwindles and employees PCS.

"We've already had to modify some of our services because there is only one trained employee. The key for us there is that Soldiers have been able to help us provide services to the transitioning Soldiers whether they're going to another duty station or getting out of the Army," Runey said.

CRAFTS STUDIO

The crafts studio on Ledward is staffed by Dave Haywood, who will retire this summer after 34 years of loyal federal service. His wife Betty volunteers there.

"We're going to have to close the arts and crafts center here and we wish them a fond farewell, but we'll no longer be able to keep this service going after they leave," said Runey.

What will happen to all the materials and equipment there?

"It will be handled in accordance with Army regulation, in accordance with the law," he said, "We can't just have a garage sale and sell it. We're not going to dump it. The goal I know for the arts and crafts center is that other arts and crafts centers will be able to come and transfer that property."

THE WAY AHEAD

There are currently six battalions in Schweinfurt, including the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, now in Afghanistan but scheduled to return in the coming weeks. One battalion has already re-stationed to Grafenwoehr, three units are deactivating and one is currently re-stationing. Meanwhile, deployments will continue.

"Our first priority in the closure process is ensuring all Soldiers and units have the highest quality re-stationing, PCS, or ETS experience we can provide," Runey said. "We will continue to protect the life, health and safety of every member of our community until departure. And we will continue to reform and rebuild our sense of community and quality of life as we draw down, both for our community members and our employees."

1st building of Del Din in Italy turned over to Army

VICENZA, Italy – The first building of the new Del Din installation is now 100 percent complete, and was officially delivered to the Vicenza garrison, Feb. 22.

"I am going to keep my opening remarks here today very, very short and that's because I have done very, very little on this project," said Col. David

W. Buckingham, USAG Vicenza Garrison commander, addressing the project team gathered to witness the official completion of the first of 31 buildings that make up the Del Din complex.

"And I have done very little because each one of you has done so much," he said.

To learn more, click **here**.



Sequestration to affect DOD schools, commissaries

WASHINGTON – Civilian personnel at Department of Defense Education Activity schools and the Defense Commissary Agency will be affected by sequestration, Pentagon

Press Secretary George Little said here today.

The department will struggle to ensure Department of Defense Education Activity, or DODEA – which serves 84,000 students at 194 schools – maintains an accredited school year, Little said.

To learn more, click here.



(TRANSFORMATION, from Page 2)

from Germany and growth expected in the community over the next two years will increase the Vicenza population from approximately 2,700 Soldiers to approximately 3,700 Soldiers.

Relocating the 1-91st Cavalry Regiment and the 4-319th Field Artillery Battalion to Grafenwoehr will place those units in a location where they can easily access world-class training areas, including the Joint Multinational Training Command ranges at Grafenwoehr, and will also enhances their quality of life, readiness and training, and maximizes use of new facilities there.

The number of civilian positions in Vicenza will be unaffected.

Also, as announced earlier today by DOD, the following forces have been identified as the 2,500 Soldiers in enabling units that will be reduced in Europe, along with V Corps Headquarters and the 170th and 172nd Infantry Brigades. Combined, these actions will reduce USAREUR from approximately 40,000 to 30,000 military personnel and impact 31 U.S. and one local national civilian employee position.

In 2012:

- 170th Infantry Brigade, Smith Barracks, Baumholder, Germany – Inactivated
- 167th Medical Detachment (Optometry), Grafenwoehr, Germany – Inactivated

In 2013:

• 535th Engineer Company, Warner Barracks, Bamberg, Germany – Inactivates

- 12th Chemical Company, Conn Barracks, Schweinfurt, Germany – Inactivates
- V Corps Headquarters, Clay Kaserne, Wiesbaden, Germany Inactivates
- 172nd Infantry Brigade, Grafenwoehr, Germany Inactivates
- Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 391st Combat Service Support Battalion, Warner Barracks, Bamberg, Germany – Inactivates
- B Detachment, 106th Finance Company, Katterbach Kaserne, Ansbach, Germany – Inactivates
- 42nd Engineer Company, Warner Barracks, Bamberg, Germany Returns to the U.S.
- 99th Movement Control Team, Aviano Air Base, Italy Returns to the U.S.

In 2014:

- Headquarters, 18th Engineer Brigade,
 Conn Barracks, Schweinfurt, Germany –
 Inactivates
- 243 Engineer Detachment, Conn Barracks, Schweinfurt, Germany – Inactivates
- 54th Engineer Battalion, Warner Barracks, Bamberg, Germany Inactivates
- 370th Engineer Company, Warner Barracks, Bamberg, Germany Inactivates
- 7th Signal Brigade, Ledward Barracks, Schweinfurt, Germany – Inactivates
- 72nd Signal Battalion, Ledward Barracks, Schweinfurt, Germany – Inactivates
- Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 95th Military Police Battalion, Sembach Kaserne, Kaiserslautern – Inactivates

- 630th Military Police Company, Warner Barracks, Bamberg, Germany Inactivates
- 464th Military Police Platoon, Camp Ederle, Italy – Inactivates
- 511th Military Police Platoon, Livorno, Italy Inactivates
- 541st Engineer Company, Warner Barracks, Bamberg, Germany Returns to the U.S.

In 2015:

- 230th Military Police Company, Sembach Barracks, Kaiserslautern, Germany – Inactivates
- 3rd Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment (Airfield Operations Battalion), Storck Barracks, Illesheim, Germany Returns to the U.S.

In 2016:

- 69th Signal Battalion, Grafenwoehr, Germany Inactivates
- 525th Military Police Detachment (Military Working Dogs), Baumholder, Germany -- Returns to the U.S.
- 1st Battalion, 214th General Support Aviation Regiment structure is reduced at Clay Kaserne, Wiesbaden, by 190 Soldier spaces and at Landstuhl Heliport by 50 Soldier spaces

Additionally, information on the disposition of other units in the closing U.S. military communities of Bamberg and Schweinfurt will be provided in the near future, as those force structure actions are determined.



Bamberg hosts IMCOM-Europe basketball tourney

U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg hosted the IMCOM Europe Unit Level Basketball Championship March 1. Eighteen teams representing the garrisons Ansbach, Bamberg, Baumholder, Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Kaiserslautern, Schweinfurt, Shape, Vicenza and Wiesbaden, are competing for the trophy. Invited were all teams that won their individual unit garrison level championship during the normal season. The 30th Medical Command from Kaiserslautern won first place. Sqt. 1st Class Craig Marceln was awarded "most valuable player."

Army spouses take on Army Physical Fitness Test

By Bryan Gatchell, USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

ANSBACH, Germany Pushups, sit-ups and a two-mile run comprise the Army Physical Fitness Test. Through this test of strength and endurance, Soldiers can gain promotion points and earn the Army Physical Fitness Badge.

U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach spouses got to test their mettle through the test, taking the test initially in January, training for six weeks and then retaking the test Feb. 28. Carly Davis, a trainer at Katterbach Fitness Center, ran the program.

"I'm an endurance trainer," she said. "I work more with sports and achieving those higher goals, so this was a way to bring a different program to the gym, because a lot of them are about weight loss and getting back in [shape,] and this was more for the more fit ladies."

The training regimen included more than simple exercises; Davis incorporated tug-of-war, relays with water bottles and an "Amazing Race" style event at Katterbach Kaserne as part of the twice-weekly meetings.

The participants had various reasons for taking part in the program.



Bryan Gatchell / USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

Andreia Grube, foreground, and Kelly Philmon, background, perform pushups Feb. 28 as part of a program that tests Army spouses on their ability to perform the Army Physical Fitness Test.

"I hate running, and I wanted to get better at it and hopefully end up enjoying running," said Alisha Ross, an Army spouse participating in the program. "I wanted to test myself and see where I stood PT-wise, get better and see the difference."

"Just to prove Army wives could do it," said Mandy Greer, another Army spouse participating in the program. "I also wanted to see how close I could get to my husband's score."

Greer proved competitor from the start, gaining a score of 289 out of a possible 300 during her initial test. She earned perfect scores in each event of the ultimate test. Her training outside the program consists of running five to six miles a day, performing lifts and working out with kettle bells.

"My husband is very fit, so he always passes," said Greer. "That was a lot of motivation, to prove to him that I could do it and do

Several of the Soldiers showed up during the final test to support their wives.

"It's really neat to see spouses on the other side of the spectrum," said Justin Ross, husband of Alisha. "I like to see the dedication they put in. It shows that it pays off; it's neat to see that."

"It gives the spouses a little representation of what their Soldiers deal with on a daily basis," said Warrant Officer Notoane Russell, whose wife Andrea Russell participated. "It gave her a little respect on why I get up at 5:30 in the morning to work out and what I have to deal with and the stresses of doing the PT test."

"A lot of the [Soldiers] get up really early in the morning when they live off post to go to PT, and a lot of the women say, 'What are you doing? Why are you leaving an hour before work?" said Davis.

According to Warrant Officer Russell, having his wife take part in the program motivated him as well.

"If my wife is out here doing great fitness, it makes me get motivated and try to up the ante."

The spouses were overall very positive about the event.

"Carly really makes you want to try hard," said April Davenport. "She motivates you really well. ... I plan on doing it again. She's doing another one in April or in May. She's doing another sixweek one, and I'm doing it again. I've actually been trying another couple of people to try it out."

"Carly was a really good instructor," said Vicki Anderson, another participant. "She pushed us but encouraged us all at one time. She was amazing."

Anderson improved over the course of the program.

"I almost took two minutes off my run," she said. "Pushups, I couldn't do many. I'm doing better, so I'm happy."

Anderson recommends others take part in the challenge as well:

"Even if they didn't think they were the best, I would recommend they try it."

The next season of the Spouse PT challenge begins April 2 and runs through the middle of May. To find out more, call Katterbach Fitness Center at 09802-83-2771 or 467-2771.

Green eggs and Bamberg: Read Across America makes it to Bamberg



Simon Hupfer / USAG Bamberg Put Lots of clapping, singing and laughing filled the multipurpose room at Bamberg's Elementary School during Read Across America celebration March 1. Special guest, Lt. Col. Michelle L. Bienias, U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg Garrison commander, read "My Many Colored Days" by Dr. Seuss to the young audience, pre-schoolers and elementary school students. Reading Across America is a nation-wide program in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday, March 2, and promotes reading to children.



PCSing pets: Schedule appointments at veterinary clinic now

By Capt. Andrew Schrader,

Schweinfurt Veterinary Treatment Facility

As closure nears, and Team Schweinfurt prepares to permanently change station, the Schweinfurt Veterinary Treatment Facility wants to ensure everyone on post gets their pets safely and legally to their next duty station.

No one should be intimidated by paperwork; the process is simple.

Any cat or dog must have a current rabies vaccine (given more than 30 days ago but less than one or three years ago). Additionally, the facility will need a health certificate prior to travel. Health certificates are good for 10 days.

Call the veterinary clinic to schedule an appointment for your pets' health certificates as soon as you know a departure date.

If there are any questions regarding your pets' travel readiness, call Schweinfurt VTF at 09721-96-8359 or DSN 353-8359.

To learn more, visit www.schweinfurt.army. mil/support/vet.

Before you get your motor running and head out on the highway, ensure your motorcycle is safe

USAG Ansbach Safety Office

ANSBACH, Germany – The temperature is rising and the ice is beginning to melt. Trees are budding and soon flowers will begin to bloom. This means it time to break your motorcycle out of winter storage. Two things you need to do before you begin to ride in earnest. Inspect your bike and take a motorcycle refresher training course.

Perform an inspection of your vehicle to ensure everything is as it should be. The T-CLOCS (T- Tires & Wheels; C- Controls; L- Lights; O- Oils; C- Chassis; S-Stands) and motorcycle inspection checklist is available for download from the IMCOM-Europe at www.imcom-europe. army.mil/webs/docs/safety/T-**CLOCS.pdf**. Don't wait until warm weather beckons you to ride and you run the T-CLOCs inspection to find out your vehicle is not ready to ride.

The second thing, perhaps the most important, is to take a motorcycle refresher riding course. Luckily for Soldiers, IMCOM-Europe offers free motorcycle safety courses under the Army Traffic Safety Training

Program. If you are a Soldier, you only need to go online at https:// apps.imcom.army.mil/AIRS/ usg disclaimer.aspx and register for the next available training date that matches your skill set and motorcycle type, which meets your work and training schedule. As a reminder, Soldiers must have a valid Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) completion card to ride a motorcycle. MSF completion cards expire every three years with one exception. The Experienced Rider Military Sportbike Rider course must be completed within 12 months of completing the Basic Rider Course. Check your wallet or purse to ensure your MSF completion card is valid before your ride.

If you have any questions about motorcycle riding requirements, call the USAG Ansbach garrison safety office at DSN 468-1670/7780 or 09802-83-1670/7780, call the USAG Bamberg garrison safety office at DSN 469-1670 or 09513-00-1670 or call the USAG Schweinfurt garrison safety office at DSN 354-1670 or 09721-96-1670.





Winners announced for Hidden Gems of Europe Photo Contest

By Jessica Lipari, USAG Bamberg Public Affairs

BAMBERG, Germany – The votes are in and U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg Facebook followers have selected the winners in the Hidden Gems of Europe Photo Contest.

The photos were of community members stay in Europe, where they ventured off the beaten path to a location they captured and wanted to share with the community.

Crystal Stupar's photo won the contest with 184 "likes." Stupar's photo was of Chiemsee Lake that is tucked away in the Bavarian Alps.

Stephanie Rodriguez's photo took second place with 121 "likes." Rodriguez's photo was taken from the top of the Alpspitze in Garmisch.

Third place went to Jessica Pekari with 55 "likes." The photo was taken in Le Bouveret, Switzerland adjacent to the shores of lake Geneva.

The top three winners will receive a \$100 Army and Air Force Exchange Services gift card, \$50 AAFES gift card and \$25 AAFES gift card respectively.

The Bamberg Spouses and Civilians' Club donated the prizes.

The USAG Bamberg Public Affairs Office that organized and monitored the contest would like



Crystal Stupar / Hidden Gems of Europe Photo Contest







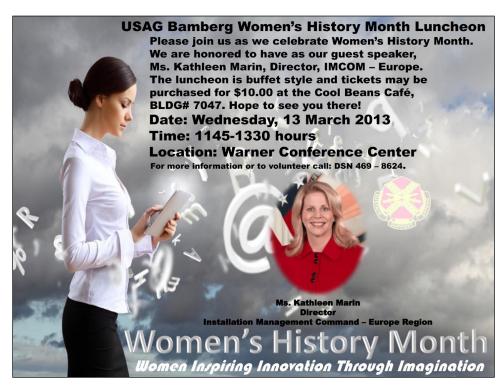
Stephanie Rodriguez / Hidden Gems of Europe Photo Contes

The winners of USAG Bamberg's Hidden Gems of Europe Photo contest include, clockwise from the top, Crystal Stupar's photo of Chiemsee Lake, Germany, in first place, Stephanie Rodriguez's photo from the summit of the Alpspitze, Germany, in second place, and Jessica Pekari's photo of Le Bouveret, Switzerland, in third place.

to thank all those who participated by either submitting a photo for the contest or helped in determining our winners.

To view all the pictures that were in the contest, visit https://

www.facebook.com/media/set/? set=a.507144105995854.112331 .108169582559977&type=3.





First Soldiers with 1-91 Cavalry Regiment return

By Michele Bradfield,

USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

SCHWEINFURT, Germany – Thirty-six Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, returned home March 1 and were welcomed by family and friends at a ceremony here after spending nine months in Afghanistan.

The Soldiers were part of the advanced echelon, or ADVON, which is the first group to re-deploy. Over the next several weeks, the entire squadron will return to Schweinfurt.

Nine mothers with newborn children were in attendance at the ceremony, which marked the first time nine of the returning Soldiers each saw his child in person.

Part of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, the 1-91 CAV deployed to Logar Province last June in support of Operation Enduring Freedom – their third tour since 2006.

Their mission, said Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Whit Write, was to train and mentor Afghan security forces to operate independently as coalition forces prepare to drawdown services and depart Afghanistan.

Immediately following their return home, all Soldiers will participate in standard



Michele Bradfield / USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

Sgt. Allen Shepard meets his daughter for the first time at welcome home ceremony March 1 at the Finney Fitness Center. Thirty-six Soldiers making up the ADVON body of the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, returned home after having spent the last nine months in Afghanistan.

reintegration procedures hosted by unit and garrison officials. Together, a group of dedicated supporters – family, friends and community members – will assist these Soldiers as they settle back into their daily routine here in Germany.

American Red Cross provides emergency preparedness preparation for 132 years

By Heidi Sanders,

USAG Bamberg Public Affairs

[Editor's Note: March is American Red Cross Month and the Franconian News is running a series of articles on various aspects of the Red Cross throughout the month. This is the first article in the series.]

BAMBERG, Germany – Preventing, preparing for and responding to an emergency is and has been the mission of the American Red Cross since it was established in 1881.

The American Red Cross was created by Clara Barton after she was introduced to the International Red Cross movement while traveling in Europe.

Even before the Red Cross was established, Barton worked tirelessly to help others. She helped ensure wounded Soldiers received medical care during the Civil War and provided tracing services after the war to help Families find their loved ones.

"She organized women and supplies to provide basic medical attention," said Samantha Wudel, station manager for the American Red Cross Office in U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg.

Wudel said Barton wore herself out from the work she was doing and traveled to Europe for some much needed rest. But while there, she read the book "A Memory of Solferino" by Henry Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross movement, and became involved in the Red Cross efforts during the Franco-Prussian War.

Upon returning to the U.S., Barton campaigned for the establishment of the American Red Cross and the adoption of the Geneva Convention in 1882.

The Geneva Convention lays out rules that help provide humanitarian assistance and protect civilians, prisoners of war and wounded Soldiers during war.

"That movement called for international agreements for the protection of the sick and wounded during wartime without respect to nationality and for the formation of voluntary national societies to give aid on a neutral basis," according to a handout from the American Red Cross.

Wudel will be speaking and providing a display exhibit about Barton's role in the establishment of the Red Cross at Bamberg's Women's History Month Luncheon March 13 at the Warner Conference Center. The luncheon costs \$10 and tickets can be purchased at the Cool Beans Café in the Community Activity Center, Building 7047.

Supported by donors

The American Red Cross is supported primarily by individual and corporate donors. Additional funding comes from grants.

The majority of contributions – about 92 percent – goes directly to program costs, Wudel said.

"We understand we have the responsibility

to manage our resources and leverage them in a way that best benefits the community at large," she said.

Find out more

For more information about the Red Cross, visit the Red Cross website at www.redcross. org or contact the local Red Cross office.

The USAG Ansbach office is located at Katterbach Kaserne, Bldg. 5817 B, Room 201. It is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To learn more, call 09802-83-1760 or visit www.facebook.com/pages/The-American-Red-Cross-Ansbach/153833101408124.

The USAG Bamberg office is located in the Army Community Service, Bldg. 7029, and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To learn more, call 0951-300-1760, email **Bamberg@redcross.org** or visit on Facebook at **www.facebook.com/ARCBamberg**.

The USAG Schweinfurt office is located at Ledward Barracks, Bldg. 274, across from Ledward Theater. It is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To learn more, call 09721-96-1760/6251 or visit www.schweinfurt.army.mil/info/services/rc.htm.

Look for the second article in the series in the March 14 issue of the Franconian News to find out more about how the Red Cross serves the military.

Off-post medicine more certain route for DOD civilians, families

By Stephen Baack, USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

ANSBACH, Germany – Some degree of confusion is nearly unavoidable during an overseas permanent change of station, a reality that applies just as well to Department of Defense civilians and their family members.

This confusion can and does extend to medical care, especially in a different county with a different language and culture, as well as a number of different medical procedures and standards.

It's often too late – once an employee or family member suffers a fracture, infection or an unexplained muscle pain, for example – when the question of "Where do I go for treatment?" comes up.

Fortunately for DOD civilians and their families, two main options exist: seeking off-post medical attention from a German health care specialist or scheduling an appointment with an on-post health clinic.

The caveat with the second option, however, is that on-post health care for DOD civilians and their families is designated as space-available. What does this mean for them?

According to Barry Donalson, group practice manager and health systems specialist supervisor at U.S. Army Health Clinic Katterbach, there is no simple, straightforward way to answer that question and a host of variables affects whether a DOD civilian can secure an on-post appointment.

Handling this juggling act of scheduling is a major part of what Donalson does at USAHC-Katterbach. Furthermore, Donalson said the process USAHC-Katterbach uses to decide whether a civilian may be seen on post differs across military communities.

Common to overseas U.S. Army garrisons, however, is the priority for service members and their families. As stated in the Army's Civilian Human Resources Agency (Europe Region) employee handbook, "What treatment is available will depend on where one is assigned, but the priority for care is always the same – after active-duty military members and their families."

"Don't make the [on-post] clinic your primary source of health care," Donalson regularly tells DOD civilians. There might be days you show up here and you might want to get something done, and they're at capacity — we may have one or two doctors out."

Donalson said the amount of space available can change quickly, such as this month with returning Soldiers undergoing redeployment processing. Plus, as more Soldiers continue to return here from Afghanistan, less on-post space will be available as a result of higher numbers of Soldiers seeking routine care. This all means civilians need to become



comfortable with seeking care off post.

Donalson recommends that newcomers look to their assigned sponsors or other fellow employees who have enough experience with off-post care to help them make a decision. Important to that decision is ensuring the off-post health care provider accepts the right insurance. If not, the employee may have to pay medical costs out of pocket once the bill arrives.

"If stationed in Germany, most doctors and dentists don't require payment before leaving their office, but the bad news is most won't file a claim with the health insurance carrier either," the CHRA handbook states. "Once employees have paid the local health care provider, they will need to submit a claim to their health insurer for reimbursement of the covered portion of their treatment."

John O'Brien, USAG Ansbach special projects officer, is a Department of the Army civilian who has years of experience with off-post health care for him and his family. Although he said his experience is slightly different than most civilian employees in navigating off-post clinics and pharmacies because his wife is a local, he said there is no shortage of people in the Franconia Military Community willing to help and advise – including sponsors and local national employees who work shoulder to shoulder with their American counterparts here in USAG Ansbach.

"I think the best thing to do is associate yourself with people that you know that are connected in the community," O'Brien said, "and just be willing to ask questions and listen to their recommendations as to where you should go."

O'Brien said, based on his experience, quality of care in Germany is no different

from in the states, but he has noticed certain differences in procedure and a difference in cost – generally lower from his point of view.

"They're extremely thorough," he added, "and, at least the people I've worked with, are very open to working with Americans in their treatment. They speak English well too. ... You'd definitely want to look for an office that's English-friendly if you don't have a connection to somebody who can go with you and translate for you."

For those adamant about trying to get onpost care, Donalson said, even for acute care availability on post can be "hit or miss when you come here based on what's going on," he said. "If it's a normal day? Yes. You might wait an hour or so; some days you might just come right in – if you hit that appointment just right."

For routine care, he said, staff will still try to fit a civilian into the schedule, and the term "case by case basis" applies absolutely to onpost scheduling. A patient with a cut on his finger, for example, may unexpectedly need quick treatment if there is a reason to believe it is infected. Furthermore, a doctor might not be available for that patient, but a nurse might

On the flip side, Donalson said even a civilian with an appointment with the on-post clinic could be turned away when a Soldier or his or her family member needs care. Since that Soldier or family member has priority, Donalson recommends civilians recognize that such a circumstance is a real possibility. When trying to explain the process to potential patients, Donalson compares such a situation with space-available military flights, where a military retiree already on the plane with ticket and bag in hand can get "bumped" off the flight by a family member of an active-duty service member who has priority.

"Well, right after that," Donalson said, continuing the example, "an active-duty service member can tap that spouse on the shoulder and say, 'Hey, I need this seat,' and bump you. I've told them it works almost the same way in the clinic."

So if you are a civilian, how can you lock in a spot at the on-post clinic? The bottom line is you simply can't, Donalson said, but there are plenty of quality options in the area.

For more information, including locations, departments and contact information for host nation facilities, visit http://ermc.amedd.army.mil/katterbach. For information on medical care for civilian employees, the Army's Civilian Human Resources Agency (Europe Region) employee handbook is accessible through https://cpolrhp.cpol.army.mil/eur/overseas/employee_handbook/living/medical_care.htm.

DOD pharmacies offer assistance for medicine mailing restrictions in Germany

By Chuck Roberts, LRMC Public Affairs

LANDSTUHL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, Germany - All U.S. ID cardholders are reminded that prescription drugs, overthe-counter medications, vitamins/minerals, and herbal and dietary supplements are not allowed to be mailed through an Army Post Office to Americans living in Germany.

German law provides strict regulations for importing medicine into Germany from other countries. Prohibited medicine products identified by U.S and German customs officials can either be destroyed or returned to sender, according to German and U.S. postal and customs officials.

For those affected by the policy, there are options available to receive certain medicines and supplements, to include Military Treatment Facility (MTF) pharmacies, AAFES outlets, Commissaries and German pharmacies and retail stores, said Lt. Col. Rodney Jorstad, Pharmacy Consultant for Europe Regional Medical Command. Below is a summary of various options provided by his office that is available to ID cardholders living in Germany.

I've never been to a Military Treatment Facility. Do I need to register to have my prescriptions filled or can I come straight to the pharmacy?

To receive any services from an Army MTF, beneficiaries must first be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), a worldwide, computerized database of uniformed servicemembers, their family members, and others who are eligible for military benefits. This requires a visit to the Patient Administration (PAD) section, which usually occurs during in-processing for active-duty servicemember and their family

Pay Patients (Civilians, DoDEA/DoDDS staff and eligible contractors) or those with additional insurance coverage beyond TRICARE (internally referred to as OHI or third-party insurance) are asked to provide insurance information to PAD during the initial registration process. As this information can change over time, you are responsible for making sure PAD has your most current insurance information or you may be billed for 100 percent of the costs for any services rendered. Please have you your insurance card with you to ensure you're billed correctly. Once you are registered, you will be registered at all MTFs within Germany.

After you register, what's required to have my prescription filled?

previously received your prescriptions in the mail, you will need a new



All U.S. ID cardholders are reminded that prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, vitamins/ minerals and herbal and dietary supplements are not allowed to be mailed through an Army Post Office to Americans living in Germany.

written prescription from your healthcare provider to have your prescription filled at an MTF pharmacy. A label from your current Mail Order pharmacy is not sufficient. Mail Order pharmacies will not transfer your prescription to military pharmacies. Only original prescriptions (not copies or scans) are considered legal. This may require you to schedule an appointment with your local provider or contact a stateside provider for new prescription orders to be mailed to you.

When you arrive at a military pharmacy, you are required to show your ID card and present a hard copy prescription signed in ink by a physician. Patients need to bring their prescriptions to the pharmacy well before they run out of medication. If their prescription is for a medication that is not stocked, it can take between one to three weeks to fill the prescription and up to six weeks if it's a narcotic medication.

Army Military Treatment Facilities do not have the ability to carry all medications available on the American market, and Military Treatment Facilities are limited their overseas supply chain when requisitioning medications. Delays may occur if your written prescriptions contain small errors or unclear information that requires a pharmacist to contact the provider before filling them.

Due to the time differences and availability of the provider, this may delay your prescription a few days after you present them to the pharmacy. If the pharmacist's questions cannot be resolved, the pharmacist may refuse to fill the prescription.

Will military pharmacies be able to fill all prescription medications?

FDA-approved There are several medications that are not provided at MTF pharmacies due to policies and/or regulations that forbid their use within the military healthcare system. A prior authorization or any other approval from TRICARE or a civilian insurance company does not override these restrictions.

Regardless of the reason you are using them, Army MTF pharmacies may not be able to honor your prescription. The most common restricted items include weightloss medications, fertility/assisted pregnancy medications and medications approved for cosmetic conditions. A complete list of these items cannot be provided here. Please call your local MTF pharmacy if you have any questions.

How does the pharmacy system determine which prescription medications they will stock?

Army MTF pharmacies in Germany operate under one formulary system, which means that Army senior physicians and pharmacists decide which medications are generally available and locally stocked. The entire overseas supply system is based on providing formulary medications to our pharmacies. Providers may request a nonformulary (sometimes called special order) medication based on rules outlined by the military and TRICARE.

These requests will be approved or denied based on a patient's individual circumstances

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and clinical criteria. Patients using non-formulary medications, who use stateside providers, will be encouraged to switch (with their doctor's permission) to similar formulary medications. Prescriptions for non-formulary medications from stateside providers will be reviewed for approval by local clinic leadership. If approved, non-formulary medications typically take several weeks to arrive from the U.S. Some non-formulary medications are "restricted" and requests for these may be denied.

How do I order refills of my medications?

All prescription bottles dispensed from an MTF contain a phone number to call to request refills. All you need to do is follow the automated prompts and enter the refill prescription number. Refills can be picked up at any MTF pharmacy in Germany.

What about controlled substances?

Controlled substances can be filled by military pharmacies but they are subject to military service rules. Prescriptions for controlled substances filled at any Army pharmacy will be limited to a one-month supply except for ADHD medications, which can be filled for a three-month supply.

Can I fill prescriptions written by my German doctor?

Yes, as long as the doctor is a TRICARE authorized provider. The prescription must be written in English using American trade names/generic names. The easiest way to find out if a local German doctor can write prescriptions is to ask if they are accustomed to writing prescriptions to be filled at an American military pharmacy.

I've never seen a cash register at an Army pharmacy. How can civilians pay for their medications?

Civilian pay patients will be charged the entire cost of the prescription minus what their insurance pays. Europe Regional Medical Command (EMRC) has an office that will bill third-party insurance companies, accept any payment provided by that insurance, and bill patients for any remaining costs (usually copays/co-insurance, or applicable deductibles or not covered services). This is a courtesy provided by ERMC. The billing process for prescriptions is not handled by the pharmacy, and pharmacy personnel will not be able to answer billing questions.

All questions concerning claims (potential or actual) or any other billing issues should be directed to the ERMC Uniform Business Office (eUBO) at www.eubo.healthcare.hqusareur.army.mil. Contact information can also be found at the bottom of each billing statement. The rates used by the eUBO for

Mushiest Photo Contest winner!



Kristin McQuilliams / Capture the Moment: Mushiest Photo Contest

Kristin McQuilliams won USAG Ansbach's "Capture the Moment: Mushiest Photo Contest" with this fantastic photo. McQuilliams won personal trainer sessions at Katterbach Physical Fitness Center, courtesy of USAG Ansbach Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Look for more photo contests and more great MWR prizes in the near future at USAG Ansbach's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/U.S.Army.Garrison.Ansbach!

billing are defined by DOD pricing tables and are not developed locally. It is our experience that the cost of prescriptions billed by MTF pharmacies is comparable to stateside retail pharmacies. Army MTF pharmacies can estimate the cost of a prescription but cannot estimate what your insurance will pay or estimate what your out-of-pocket expenses will be.

What about non-prescription items such as over-the-counter medications, protein powder, vitamins/minerals, herbals and other supplements? And do the same mailing restrictions apply to medications for pets?

Army MTF pharmacies are unable to order non-formulary over-the-counter items, even if they were recommended by your doctor. Many local stores have these products available to purchase, including AAFES facilities, the Commissary, the German Apotheke (pharmacy) or German retail stores such as Globus or Real.

The German medical system uses many more herbal and homeopathic medications than used in the U.S., so finding these products at German stores will likely be easier than you expect. The same mailing restrictions apply to medications for pet. Please consult your local veterinarian for suitable alternatives.

Welcome Home, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team!

March 1, Freedom Fitness Facility, Bamberg











Photos by Simon Hupfer, USAG Bamberg Public Affairs













To view more pictures and a video of the Welcome Home Ceremony, visit http://www.flickr.com/photos/bambergmwr/sets/72157632912751900/.

Civilian/reservist signs on for 3 more years in Army Reserve

By Bryan Gatchell, USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

ANSBACH, Germany – Staff Sgt. Latanya Foster works in two worlds; she is both a civilian employee of the Department of the Army and an Army reservist. In addition to being the property book officer and manager of the Central Issue Facility at Barton Barracks, her civilian job, she is now a unit supply specialist with the Special Operations Command Africa, or SOCAFRICA.

During a ceremony Feb. 22 at her civilian place of work, Foster re-enlisted with the Army Reserve for three more years. She has been a member of the Reserve for 10 years already. Since joining the civilian world a little more than a year ago here at U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach, she has already received a

"It's different from the military world, but it's been great," said Foster. "I'm enjoying it, and I've got a really good group of supervisors and staff members.'

Her Army Reserve supervisor believes that her Reserve career enhances her civilian

"It may take some time out of her civilian job, but the experience and training that she gets as a reservist is going to help her ability as a civilian employee," said Lt. Col. Lockhart Simpson, chief of Plans and Operations for USAG Ansbach's Directorate of Logistics and Foster's Army Reserve supervisor. "I'm very happy to have her working for me as a

reservist, and I'm very proud that I'm going to re-enlist her."

Typically reservists will train together one weekend a month with their units. With Foster's re-enlistment and new duty assignment, she will have greater flexibility when scheduling her training.

"She came from a drilling Reserve unit, a TPU, a troop program unit," said Sgt. 1st Class John Baczynski, an Army Reserve career counselor. "What she's going into now is an IMA position, an individual mobilization augmentee. She doesn't have a set schedule, whereas her old unit, in October she would get a schedule for the whole year. ... IMA doesn't have that schedule. She's going to work out her schedule with her first-line supervisor, and then she can bounce that off her boss, so it's like having your cake and eating it too."

Baczynski believed that Foster has good support from her civilian employers to achieve both her work here and her work as part of SOCAFRICA.

"In the states, they have ESGR, Employer Support Guard and Reserve," he said. "We don't have that in Germany. What those people do is if reservists come back from downrange and their boss fires them or whatever, they are an intermediary. As Colonel Simpson says, he supports; he's got two other reservists. That is a major thing, having the support of your supervisors on the civilian side. Big time. It makes things easier."

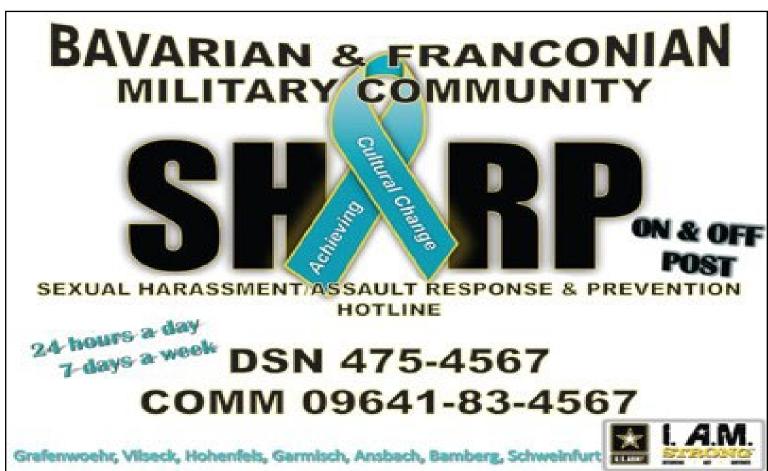
Foster relishes both roles:



Brvan Gatchell / USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Lockhart Simpson, left, swears in Staff Sgt. Latanya Foster during a Foster's Army Reserve reenlistment ceremony Feb. 22 at Foster's civilian place of work, the Central Issue Facility at Barton Barracks at U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach.

"I'm excited to continue on my Reserve career, continue to lead Soldiers, and be a civilian and continue to contribute to the force."



Franconia Military Community **Announcements**

Flu Vaccines

Flu vaccines are now available at your local health clinic. An annual average of 36,000 deaths and 226,000 hospitalizations occur each year in the U.S. due to influenza infections. Annual flu vaccinations are the most effective method for preventing influenza virus infections and its complications. For more information, visit http:// bit.ly/flu-shot-video.

Bicycle fines increase

The German parliament has approved increases in the fines for bicycle offenses. Failing to use a bike path or riding without a light will cost 20 euro instead of 15 starting April 1. The fine for biking through a pedestrian zone will be 15 euro instead of 10. Parking a car on a bike path will cost 20 to 30 euro.

DLA Disposition Services Sites Notice

DLA Disposition Services Sites in Schweinfurt and Get EFMP Registered Grafenwoehr have re-opened for property turn-in. Reutilization, Transfer, Donation and Hazardous Waste Disposal services has also resumed. For any urgent matters, the site team can be called at 09721-96-8277 in Schweinfurt or 09641-83-6384 in Grafenwoehr.

Care Experience

Returning an Army Provider Satisfaction Survey can generate money for the local health clinic. Positive responses to the questions that generate money for the clinic are great, but honest responses about the customer experience is necessary to improve the clinic's quality of service. Beneficiaries who do not receive a survey within six weeks of a visit to a local clinic should ensure their Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System is up to

CID Seeks Qualified Soldiers

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, commonly known as CID, is recruiting qualified Soldiers who are interested in pursuing a career as a federal law enforcement officer. For more information, visit www.cid. army.mil/join_CID.html.

Army Suggestion Program

The Army Suggestion Program encourages Soldiers, civilians and any concerned individuals to submit ideas regarding how the Army can increase efficiency and cut costs. Approved suggestions are assessed on how much they save the Army and can earn individuals thousands of dollars. For more information, or to submit an idea, Army Knowledge Online registered users can visit the ASP



Recycling Idea

Don't throw away that detergent bottle! Rinse it out thoroughly, poke several holes on top of the lid and use it as a watering can for your garden.

website at http://asp.hqda.pentagon.mil/public. Those unable to access AKO can submit a DA Form 1045 to their installation coordinator.

OneSource Mobile

Army OneSource is now available for smartphone browsers. The launch of a mobile device version will optimize Army OneSource the mobile experience for visitors. Visit www.myarmyonesource.com today.

Is your Soldier coming back from deployment? If your Soldier is receiving orders to another location, it is not too early to start your Exceptional Family Member Program paperwork. Family members can start the paperwork now. Your local Army Community Service EFMP manager can assist in determining what you need to do. Remember, if you have someone registered in EFMP, the registration has to be updated every three years or when the condition changes.

Sexual Assault

Your Sexual Assault Response Coordinator is available 24 hours a day. Call 0162-510-2917 for the 24-hour hotline.

Pre-Separation Briefing

Planning to move from Soldier to civilian? Take advantage of the transition services offered by the Army Career and Alumni Program, such as a Department of Labor two-anda-half-day job assistance workshop, resume preparation assistance and information about veterans benefits. Make an appointment to attend the mandatory ACAP Pre-Separation Briefing offered weekly and about an hour long. Separating Soldiers can start the ACAP process one Immediate Appointments year before separating. Soldiers who will be retiring can start two years out from their projected retirement date.

Trial Defense Services

If you're a Soldier and you are questioned by law enforcement, Criminal Investigation Division or members of your command about suspected acts of misconduct, you have the absolute right to remain silent. You have the right to refuse to answer any question, even from your commander, and you have the right to talk to an attorney. If questioned, you should immediately demand to speak to an attorney. As a Soldier, you are entitled to free consultation and representation by a military defense counsel. All communications with a trial defense attorney are privileged and will not be released to your command. Let a U.S. Army trial defense attorney help you. To learn more, speak with a free trial defense attorney.

Teen Stress

The National Military Family Association has created a kit to give the people in military teens' lives a way to help them manage stress and affirm the positive aspects of military life. To obtain a copy of the tool kit and learn more, visit https://www.myarmyonesource.com/ News/2010/07/OperationPurple.

Scout Program

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects three young people — of the Boy or Girl Scouts, Sea Scouts or Venturing Crew - who have demonstrated practical citizenship in school, scouting and the community. The first-place winner receives a \$5,000 award, the secondplace winner receives a \$3,000 award and the third-place winner receives \$1,000. To learn more, visit www.vfw.

org/Community/Scout-of-the-Year-Scholarship.

Involved Consideration

Missed appointments diminish a medical facility's ability to provide efficient health care. The next time you cannot make your medical appointment, be considerate and cancel your appointment. We need your involvement to provide better care.

PTA Scholarships

Apply for European Parent Teacher Association scholarships. For more information, visit http:// europeanptaonline.org/EPTAScholarship.aspx.

Post-9/11 GI Bill

Take advantage of your military benefits. Earn a degree or skill with your Post-9/11 GI Bill. Find out more about your benefits by visiting www.gibill.va.gov.

Edelweiss Resort

Ongoing specials and packages are available for Garmisch-Partenkirchen Germany This full-scale resort and alnine lodge is in the heart of the Bavarian Alps and ski country. The hotel is part of USAG Garmisch. There are often deals and package specials available. For more information, visit www.edelweisslodgeandresort.com.

Utility Tax Relief Services

The Tax Relief Office offers a new service for U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach, Bamberg and Schweinfurt customers. With the implementation of the Utility Avoidance Program, customers can sign up and save 19 percent tax on their electricity, gas and water bills. To learn more, call the Warner Barracks' Tax Relief Office at 0951-300-1780, Leward Barracks' Tax Relief Office at 09721-96-1780, Bismark Kaserne's Tax Relief Office at 09802-83-1780 or Storck Barracks' Tax Relief Office at 09841-83-4553.

Family Advocacy Programs

Army Community Service's Family Advocacy Program is here to provide help and support by offering New Parent Support Program, Newborn Network, play group, parenting classes, communication classes, victim advocacy and anger/stress management classes. Contact your local ACS for dates and class schedules.

Are you tired of waiting on hold while scheduling a medical appointment at a health clinic? With TRICARE Online, you don't have to wait on hold. You can schedule appointments, refill prescriptions and manage your health needs better. Register today at www.tricareonline.com. To learn more, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7VeUIyTMa4.



Ansbach Community Announcements

Send all announcements to Ansbach Public Affairs at usarmy. ansbach.imcom-europe.list.webmaster@mail.mil.

Inclement Weather Info

For up-to-date information on weather conditions, visit our new "What You Should Know when Inclement Weather Comes to USAG Ansbach" at www.ansbach.army.mil/webpages/InclementWeather.asp. You can find the link to the website under the Weather Information menu item on the left side of the homepage and, when the popup menu pops up, select "What you should know."

Tax Centers

Katterbach Tax Center, located on the third floor of the ACS building, is open now. The Tax Center at Storck is open now with regular hours from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Walk-in customers will be accepted; however, it is recommended to make an appointment to avoid unnecessary waiting time. Call Katterbach Tax Center at DSN 467-2324 or 09802-832324 and Storck Tax Center at DSN 467-4511 or 09841-834511.

AER campaign

The 2013 Army Emergency Relief campaign takes place now through May 15. To learn more, visit www.aerhq. org.

Thrift shop move

Help the ISCC Thrift Shop move March 7 from noon to 3 p.m. and March 8 from 9 a.m. to noon. Work an entire shift and receive \$5 in-store credit; work half a shift and receive \$2.50 in-store credit. To learn more, email ISCCThriftShop@gmail.com.

Ansbach clean-up

Help clean up Ansbach during the Ansbach Saub(ä)er, the city-wide clean-up, March 16 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Lunch is provided to registered volunteers at Distler Saal (Distlerweg 2, Ansbach-Eyb) at noon. To learn more or register, call 0981-51463.

Open House

Storck Recreation Center at the Storck Community Activity Center holds its open house March 9 from noon to 3 p.m. Visitors can tour the center, enjoy refreshments and

see what the center has in store for them. To learn more, visit the center on the third floor of Bldg. 6510 Mondays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. or call 09841-83-4714 or 467-4714.

EFMP bowling

The Exceptional Family Member Program offers free bowling at Katterbach and Storck bowling centers March 25, April 22 and May 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. Sign up in advance with Army Community Service. To learn more or sign up, call Katterbach ACS at 09802-83-2883 or 467-2883 or Storck ACS at 09841-83-4555 or 467-4555.

Library orientation

Attend a USAG Ansbach library orientation and find out about the resources and programs available, meet the staff, take a tour of the library, get one-on-one help and enjoy refreshments. Storck Library holds their orientation March 28 at 4 p.m. To learn more, call 09841-83-4675 or DSN 467-4675.

Java Café hours

Java Café at Storck Barracks Bowling Center, Bldg. 6508, has new hours. They will be open Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The café will be closed Saturdays.

Storck focus groups

Storck Recreation Center at the Storck Community Activity Center will hold focus groups April 5 and May 3 from noon to 1 p.m. to get ideas from its clients and give them the experiences they want. To learn more, visit the center on the third floor of Bldg. 6510 Mondays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. or call 09841-83-4714 or 467-4714

Play reading group

Terrace Playhouse at Bleidorn Kaserne holds a play reading group from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday afternoons. No experience is necessary and guests may bring snacks to share. The group will read *Don't Drink the Water* by Woody Allen March 10, *Enchanted April* adapted to the stage by Matthew Barber April 21 and *Pride and Prejudice* adapted to the stage by Helen Jerome May 19.

Couples communication

Storck Army Community Service hosts a class on couples communication. Their next course will be March 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the many ways to say "I love you" and the many ways to show it. To learn more, call 09841-83-4555 or 467-4555.

Volunteers needed at Arts and Crafts

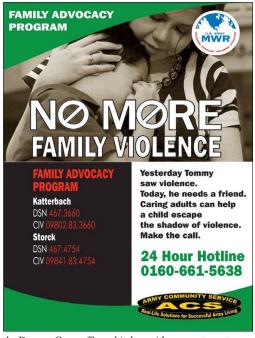
Seeking volunteer and contract teachers one to two times per month for sewing, cake decoration, general crafts and more. Open to all ID cardholders. No experience needed – just a happy personality and a creative idea to share. Send an email to **AnsbachArtsCrafts@eur.army.mil**.

ISCC Thrift Shop Needs Volunteers

Looking for a fun and rewarding way to help others and give back to your community? Look no further than the Illesheim Spouses and Civilians Club Thrift Shop. Volunteer openings include sorting donations, organizing clothes, tagging items and general housekeeping. Volunteers will receive \$5 store credit for working a full shift. Profits from the Thrift Shop are given back to the Illesheim community in the form of welfare grants and scholarships. Thrift Shop hours are Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Thursday from noon to 3 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, and the first Saturday of each month from noon to 3 p.m. For more information, email to illesheim.iscc@gmail.com.

Eagle's Nest Recreation Hall

The Barton Barracks Eagle's Nest Recreation Hall, next to



the Duggan Gym, offers a kitchen with an area to seat more than 30 people. The Eagle's Nest is open to all community members. To learn more, call 09811-837848 or email usarmy.ansbach.imcom-europe.mbx.ioc@mail.mil.

Colmberg Castle dinner

Have an entertaining evening with Ansbach Spouses' and Civilians' Club at the Colmberg Castle March 23 at 6 p.m. The bar opens at 5:30 p.m. Enjoy a seven-course meal accompanied by a fire show, sword fight, ax-throwing demonstration and more. The event lasts 4.5 hours long, costs 80 euros for ASCC members and 85 euros for non-members. The price includes one non-alcoholic drink and souvenir. Attendees can purchase an engraved plate for 20 euros. Attendees should sign up at the ASCC Thrift Store as soon as possible. Full amount, which is non-refundable, must be paid in cash at time of RSVP. To learn more, email asccgermany@googlemail.com.

Stress and Anger Management

Don't be an angry bird! Help is available through a stress and anger management class. The class is offered on the first Wednesday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. at Katterbach Army Community Service or on the fourth Tuesday of the





Lunch provided to registered volunteers at Distler Saal (Distlerweg 2, Ansbach-Eyb) at noon. Call 0981 - 51463 to register!

For more information on Ansbach community announcements, visit https://www.facebook.com/U.S.Army.Garrison.Ansbach



month from 2 to 4 p.m. at Storck ACS. Sign up by calling the ACS Family Advocacy Program at 09802-83-2516.

Movie Night

Enjoy a movie free at the Storck Library every Friday at 3 p.m. To learn more, call 09841-83-4675.

Health Clinic Improvements

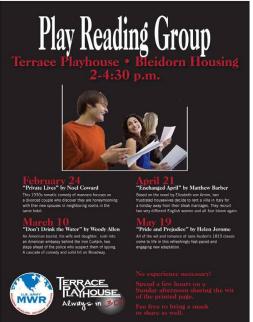
The Katterbach Health Clinic has a new front entrance just in time for the 2013 flu vaccine campaign. Stop by the Katterbach Health Clinic for your flu shot and experience the renovations, which are designed to improve the patient experience.

Brown Bag Lunch

Bring a lunch and explore a new town with Army Community Service. The meeting place is ACS on the first Wednesday of every month at Katterbach and the fourth Wednesday of every month at Storck Barracks. Meet at 10:30 a.m. Cost is 10 to 15 Euros. To learn more, call 09841-83-4555.

AFTB: Level II

Army Family Team Building holds its Level II class from March 19 to 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Level II covers military acronyms, customs and courtesies, financial readiness and more. To learn more, call the Katterbach



Army Community Service at 467-2883 or 09802-83-2883 or Storck ACS at 467-4555 or 09841-83-4555.

Closures and Changes

Resurfacing of B-14

Resurfacing is ongoing for state road B-14 along Urlas and Shipton Kaserne. The speed limit is reduced to 50 kilometers per hour. Access and exit to and from Obereichenbach will remain the same. During phase one, two lanes going toward Katterbach will be resurfaced. Entering from Katterbach and exiting toward Ansbach will remain possible. There will be a detour exiting toward Katterbach and entering from Ansbach, offering two possibilities to turn around: One at Hotel Windmühle and one at Obereichenbach. During phase two, two lanes going toward Ansbach will be resurfaced. The current access near the traffic light will be blocked and drivers coming from Katterbach toward Ansbach will be detoured by Soldier Lake. The detour for exiting toward Katterbach and entering from Ansbach will remain in place.

Sports, Health and Fitness

Intramural Volleyball

Intramural Volleyball begins for U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach March 26 at 7 p.m. with games Tuesdays at Storck Physical Fitness Facility and Thursdays at Katterbach PFF. The officials' clinic is March 20 and 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Von Steuben Community Center. A coach's meeting takes place March 22 at 6 p.m. at the Katterbach PFF. To learn more, call Katterbach PFF at 09802-83-2771 or 467-2771 or Storck PFF at 09841-83-4582 or 467-4582.

Bowling Membership Club Card

Join the Katterbach and Storck Bowling Center club for \$25. The membership is valid for one year and members receive \$1.50 games, free shoe rental, a free T-shirt and a few bowling towels. To learn more, call Katterbach Bowling Center at 09802-832638 or Storck Bowling Center at 09841-834530.

Aerobic Fitness Classes:

The Katterbach Physical Fitness Center has added evening classes for after-work customers, including Power Yoga every Tuesday from 5 to 6 p.m., circuit training every Thursday from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m., and indoor cycling/spin classes Mondays at 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Fridays at 6 p.m.

Youth and Teens

FRG Child Care Night

Child care is available for mission-related Family readiness group meetings on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. To learn more, call Parent Central Services at 09841-83-4880 or 09802-83-2533.

Ansbach Girl Scouts

What is green, almost 100 years old and hip and cool as ever? Girl Scouts! Be a part of the adventure and fun that is Girl Scouts. Any girls kindergarten through 12th grade are welcome. To join or learn more, email gsansbach@yahoo.com or call 0151-445-12471.

Weekly Reminders

Safety Hazard on B-13

A safety hazard exists on B-13 between Ansbach and Illesheim north of Oberdachstetten, where there is a steep decline that goes under a railroad overpass. One lane of traffic goes down the hill and two lanes of traffic go up the hill. Do not pass.

FCC providers

Become a Family Child Care Provider. Family Child Care offers small, multi-age group care in a nurturing home environment. Providers can earn extra income, start a career and provide a valuable service to their communities.



To sign up for the next FCC program orientation, call Parent Central Services at 09802-83-2533 or the FCC office at 09802-83-2536.

Domestic violence hotline

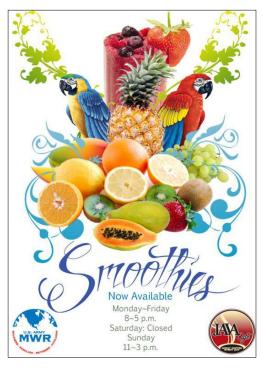
The Family Advocacy Program at Katterbach Kaserne and Storck Barracks has a 24-hour hotline for those adult victims of domestic violence. Those who live in a violent household should call 0160-661-5638. To learn more about the Family Advocacy Program, call Katterbach at 09802-83-3660 or 467-3660 or Storck at 09841-83-4754 or 467-4754.

SHARP hotline

The Bavarian and Franconian military communities have a Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention hotline at 09641-83-4567 or 475-4567 available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for on or off post.

Safety Training and Information

The U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach Safety Office recommends this **website** containing many safety topics, in both English and German, which can be used for information and training in your organization throughout the year. As time goes by, more will be added, but there is a vast volume of workplace and off-duty subjects, including videos and slide shows.



Bamberg Community Announcements

Please send all announcements to Bamberg Public Affairs at usarmy.bamberg.usareur.mbx.pao@mail.mil.

Arts and Crafts Contest

The 2013 Arts and Crafts contest starts May 1 and runs through June 30. It is open to all Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation patrons (Active Duty, National Guard, Family members, Retirees and Army Civilians) of all ages. Categories are ceramics, digital art, drawings, fibers/textiles, glass, metals/jewelry, mixed media, paintings and wood. Contact your local Arts and Crafts Center for details.

Bamberg Lodging Furniture Sale

The Bamberg Inn will host a furniture sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 17. The special sale is open to ID cardholders only. Items for sale will include bedroom furniture, twin and queen size mattresses, and box springs, bed frames, headboards, nightstands, desks, chairs and bed linens. All purchases have to be made with cash. To learn more, call the Bamberg Inn at 0951-300-8604 or email michael.t.stevens16.naf@mail.mil.

Bulk Item Pickup

The Directorate of Public Works will pick up bulk items for disposal on the first Monday of the month. The dates for 2013 are April 2, June 3, July 1, Aug. 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7 and Nov. 4. Spring cleanup will take place in May so bulk pickup will be the week of May 15 to 20.

Postal Service Center Hours

Beginning April 1, the Postal Service Center opening hours will be from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for the finance windows and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for mail and package pickup. Official mail pickup will be open from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.

Garrison Easter Egg Hunt

Child, Youth and School Services, in partnership with Army and Air Force Exchange Service and Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, will host the garrison Easter Egg Hunt March 30 at 11 a.m. at Friendship Park. Activities will include an egg hunt, pictures with the Easter Bunny, bounce houses, barbeque and more.

Bingo

The Bamberg Spouses and Civilians' Club will host bingo



March 8 at the Warner Conference Center. In celebration of the first bingo game of the new year, the BSCC has some big prizes including a Wii, Nintendo DS, Kindle, Blu-Ray player and more. Card sales start at 6:30 p.m. and bingo begins at 7 p.m. Wear green to receive a free bingo card. For more information, email bscc1stvp@gmail.com.

Single Soldier Supper

There will be a Single Soldier Supper at 5:30 p.m. at the Bamberg Community Chapel March 25, April 22, May 20 and June 24. Single Soldiers are invited to enjoy a free, home-cooked meal. For more information or to help with the supper, call Matt and Tina Huisjen at 09502-8037.

Women's History Month Luncheon

There will be a Women's History Month luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 13 at the Warner Conference Center. The speaker will be Installation Management Command Europe Regional Director Kathleen Marin. Tickets cost \$10 and can be purchased at the Cool Beans Café in the Community Activity Center, Bldg. 7047. To learn more, call 0951-300-8624.

Community Flea Markets

Come and sell your unwanted items or search for a great find at the Community Flea Markets from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the second Saturday of the month at Summerall Field near the Community Activity Center. Dates for the flea markets are March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 14 and Oct. 12.

Legally Blonde, The Musical

The Stable Theater presents its winter smash Broadway musical hit, *Legally Blonde, The Musical* for eight shows during two weekends. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. March 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23 and 3 p.m. March 17 and 24. Tickets are \$11 for adults, \$9 for students and Soldiers and Family members E4 and below. Ask about group and deployment discounts. Non-ID cardholder guests can gain access by emailing full name, passport number, birth date and vehicle license plate number at least two working days prior to show date. Show contains some adult themes, so use discretion with children. For more information or to reserve tickets, call 0951-300-8647 or send an email to **stable.theater.tickets@eur.army.mil**.

Tacos and Turntables

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers and the Community Activity Center are teaming up to offer Tacos and Turntables from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 19, April 16, May 14 and June 11 at the CAC. Enjoy the CAC's taco buffet, which includes two hard or soft tacos or nacho chips with your choice of topping, and music provided by BOSS.

English as a Second Language Classes

English as a Second Language classes will take place each Monday and Tuesday in the Family Advocacy Program classroom, Bldg. 7487 on Armor Drive behind the flower shop. ESL Level 1 will meet from 9 to 10:30 a.m., Level 2 from 10:30 am. to noon and Level 3 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. All U.S. ID cardholders are eligible to attend. For more information, contact Jeffrey Card at jeffrey.p.card.civ@mail.mil or 0951-300-7777.

Emergency Placement Care Program

The Emergency Placement Care Program, which provides a safe and caring environment to children in crisis, is looking for Emergency Placement Care Providers who will open their homes to children in need. To learn more, call Army Community Service at 0951-300-8397/7777.

Parenting Skill Builder Classes

Bamberg Family Life Center New Parenting Skills Classes start the first Tuesday of every month and meet from 9 to 11 a.m. for four sessions. Learning the skills to parent with Love and Logic can help make parenting fun



and rewarding, instead of stressful and chaotic. You will learn practical tools and techniques to build respectful, healthy relationships with children and help prepare children for the real world. To learn more, to register or to sign up for child care, call 0951-300-1570/8141 or email **chrisopher.d.floro.mil@mail.mil**.

Amsterdam and Keukenhof Garden Trip

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will be taking a trip to Amsterdam and Keukenhof Garden April 5 through 8. The cost is \$395 per person for a double room or \$595 for a single room. The price includes roundtrip transportation, three nights in a three-star hotel, three breakfasts and a city tour of Amsterdam and a day trip to Keukenhof Gardens, including entrance fee. The trip is open to single Soldiers, geographical bachelors, married Soldiers and their authorized guests ages 18 and older. To learn more, call Outdoor Recreation at 0951-300-9376 or contact your local BOSS office.

Lloret De Mar, Spain, Trip

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is heading to Lloret De Mar, Spain, May 23 through 27. The cost is





\$320 per person for a double room or \$370 for a single room. The price includes roun-trip transportation, three nights in a three-star hotel, three breakfasts and a city tour of Barcelona and a medieval dinner. The trip is open to single Soldiers, geographical bachelors, married Soldiers and their authorized guests ages 18 and older. Deadline to sign up is May 9. To learn more, call Outdoor Recreation at 0951-300-9376 or contact your local BOSS office.

Youth and Teens

CYSS Track and Field Signups

Sign-ups for Child, Youth and School Services Track and Field for youth ages 6 through 14 runs through March 15. Practice will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting April 16. The season runs from April to June. Visit Parent Central Services to sign up. Don't forget to use your deployment benefits before they run out.

Disney Imagination Movers

Armed Forces Entertainment and Navy Entertainment Closures and Changes present the Disney Imagination Movers at 3 p.m. April 13 at the Freedom Fitness Center. Young kids will love seeing their TV favorites onstage in Bamberg. Doors open 2 p.m. Admission is free. To learn more, call 0951-300-8647.

Space Camp Scholarship

Children enrolled in sixth through ninth grade, whose parent are active-duty military, mobilized guard, Reserve, post-9/11 veterans or service members who died while serving, can apply for the Military Child Education Bernard



Curtis Brown II Memorial Space Camp Scholarship. The scholarship covers full tuition, which includes roundtrip transportation to Space Camp, meals, lodging and program/materials. To learn more or to apply, visit www. militarychild.org/parents-and-students/scholarships.

Coaches Needed

Coaches are still needed for all youth sports. You don't have to be a parent to volunteer. If you know a single Soldier that would be interested in volunteering, have them visit the Youth Sports office in Bldg. 7669 or call 0951-call 300-7523.

Baseball, Softball and T-ball Registration

Registration is now open for Child, Youth and School Services baseball, softball and T-ball. These sports are open to children ages 3 to 15. The cost for baseball and softball are \$45 and the cost for T-ball (ages 3 to 5) is \$20. Visit Parent Central Services in Bldg. 7340 or visit Webtrac to sign up.

Applications sought for the Military Youth of the Year

The Military Youth of the Year is a Boys & Girls Club of America recognition program that partners with the Military Child and Youth Services. Local clubs recognize members ages 14 to 18 as Youth of the Month winners and select a Youth of the Year, who then participates in state competitions. State winners each receive a \$1,000 scholarship and participate in regional competitions. Five regional winners each receive a \$10,000 scholarship and compete on the national level. The National Youth of the Year receives up to an additional \$50,000 scholarship and is installed by the president of the United States. Visit the JFK Youth Center, Bldg. 7663, to pick up an application Weekly Reminders or call 0951-300-8871 and ask for Destiny Cilumba for more details.

Boy Scouts

Boy Scout Troop # 40 in Bamberg is looking for boys ages 12 and older interested in becoming Boy Scouts. The troop meets every Monday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., except on holidays. The boys work on requirements for advancement and earning merit badges. The troop is also looking for adult volunteers and Eagle Scouts to assist with troop activities. To learn more, call 0160-1585894.

Vehicle Registration Office Closure

The Vehicle Registration Office will be closed on March 29 and April 1. To learn more, call 0951-300-7580.

Changes for Bamberg CDC

Hourly care services at the Bamberg Child Development Center are temporarily reduced to 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. There also is currently reduced space at the School Age Center.

Subway New Hours

Subway, located in the Shoppette, will reduce its hours beginning March 1. The new hours will be Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. For the latest hours of all Army and Air Force Exchange Service locations, visit www.shopmyexchange. com/ExchangeLocations/WarnerBarracksStore.htm.

Optical Shop Closure

The Optical Shop will be closed beginning March 31. Customers in need of optical services after the closure can visit the optical shops at other garrisons.

Sports, Health and Fitness

Red Cross 5-Kilometer Run

March is American Red Cross month and the Red Cross will host a 5-kilometer run at 7 a.m. March 22 at the Freedom Fitness Facility. The run highlights the partnership between the Red Cross and the Wounded Warrior Program. Preregister by March 15 to ensure enough goodie bags for all participants. To register, visit the Bamberg Red Cross Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ARCBamberg, call 0951-300-1760 or email bamberg@redcross.org.



Fitness Classes

The Freedom Fitness Facility offers a variety of fitness classes. To see a complete schedule, visit www. bamberg.army.mil/directorates/dfmwr/docs/fff/FFF-FitnessSchedule.htm.

CDC Parking

Parking in front of the Child Development Center is for patron drop-off and pickup only. There are plenty of other parking opportunities nearby, including in front of the Basics Building, in front of Community Bank and the PX/ Commissary parking lot.

Military Council of Catholic Women

The Military Council of Catholic Women meet Thursdays at the chapel. Mass begins at noon, followed by fellowship, lunch and study group from 12:30 to 2 p.m. To learn more, email andrea.lands@gmail.com.

Woodworkers Roundtable

Take part in the woodworkers roundtable every Wednesday at the Arts and Crafts woodshop on the second floor of Bldg. 7047. Get tips, tricks and new ideas. The event is free. To learn more, call 0951-300-8659 or email thomas. stenson@us.army.mil.

Arts and Crafts

Take part in the crafter's club at noon every Tuesday at the Arts and Crafts classroom on the first floor of Bldg. 7047. Join the fun. Local crafters get together to share ideas, tips and tricks on a variety of crafts. Learn something new or share your knowledge. The event is free. For more information, call 0951-300-8659 or email thomas. stenson@us.army.mil.





Schweinfurt Community Announcements

Please send all announcements to Schweinfurt Public Affairs at usarmy.schweinfurt.imcom-europe.mbx.pao@mail.mil.

The Schweinfurt tax center is located at the Conn Annex in Bldg. 7. The garrison shuttle buses have added an additional stop there to accommodate community members needing to visit the tax center. For more information, visit www.schweinfurt.army.mil/support/legal/tax.htm.

Winter Wrap-up 2012-2013

This winter find something fantastic for all ages and interests - everything from classes, Alpine retreats, ceremonies, events, trips, camps and so much more. Visit www.schweinfurt.army.mil/infovault/winterwrapup. htm to learn more. Click on each event listed for full



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information. No information available yet? Check back as the event nears since the event listings are constantly

Seeking Volunteer Drivers/Phone Operators

Volunteer drivers and phone operators are needed to staff a program aimed at slashing the number of DUIs in Schweinfurt by providing a vehicle pickup service to those Soldiers consuming alcohol on weekend nights. To get involved, call 0173-794-2998 or 0160-987-98955, or visit the Schweinfurt AADD Facebook page at www.facebook. com/SchweinfurtAADD.

Seeking Cake Decorators

The Schweinfurt High School Culinary Club seeks volunteers experienced in cake decorating. Contact Culinary Club sponsor Hana McWilliams at 09721-96-6812 or Hana.McWilliams@eu.dodea.edu.

Photo Scavenger Hunt: Basic Challenge

The Ledward Library has an ongoing photo scavenger hunt. How well do you know your military community in U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt? Check out the photo gallery in the library and guess where in the community they came from. Submit your guesses about where the pictures were taken and the person with the most correct answers wins a prize.

Recycling Education Class

and anyone who wants to learn about recycling, is offered twice a month Wednesday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Family members 9 and older are encouraged to attend with a parent. Bring a friend if he or she lives in military housing or military-leased housing. Class space is limited, so call 09721-96-6955 to sign up. Classes will be cancelled if no German Class one signs up by 4:30 p.m. the Tuesday before class.

Closures and Changes

Closure 2014

Stay up to date with the latest information regarding the Schweinfurt's closure in 2014. Visit the Closure 2014 page for reliable, honest information on the most recent service modifications and reductions, closure news, Soldier, Family and employee resources and frequently asked questions. Visit www.schweinfurt.army.mil/closure2014 to stay informed on how closure may impact you.

Closure blog

The Closure Blog addresses real answers and issues asked by community members regarding how closure will affect them. Topics such as PCSing tips, how services will be modified, and employment resources are discussed. Have a concern about closure? Then submit a question and get real answers. Don't fall victim to the rumor mill; be informed and prepared by visiting www.schweinfurt.army.mil/ closure2014/closure blog.htm.

Youth and Teens

Give Me 20

Looking to get fit? The Youth Center is offering a free fitness program every Wednesday and Thursday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for youths ages 13 through 18. Program facilitators will show youths how to safely work out and stay fit. Dedicated participants will see positive results. Workouts will include sports, spinning, weightlifting and more. Participants must be registered with CYSS and have a permission slip on file. To learn more or to register, call the Youth Center at 09721-96-6732.

Smart Girls

Young ladies, the Smart Girls program is up and running again. Topics include life skills, healthy eating, fitness, health care systems, positive mentors, respecting yourself,

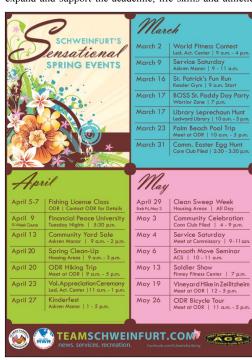


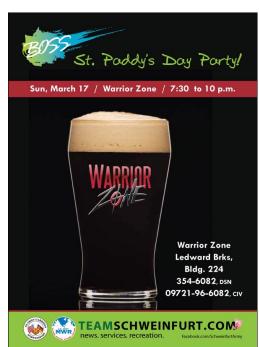
A recycling education course, for trash disposal offenders fashion shows, dinner with parents, lock-ins and more. Age groups include 11 to 14 and 15 to 18. Smart Girls meets every Monday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Youth Center. For more information, call the Youth Center at 09721-96-6732.

Let's talk German! Learn German one on one every Wednesday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Youth Center. This program is taught by our own education tech who was born and raised in Schweinfurt. This class can help your German grade go from a C to an A+ and it may even help you make friends in the German community. Test your skills by joining us on a field trip downtown. For more information, call the Youth Center at 09721-96-6732.

SKIESUnlimited

SKIES offers different classes every month for youths 18 and younger. The program is designed to complement, expand and support the academic, life skills and athletic





experiences children and youths have within Child, Youth and School Services programs and in schools. For the latest class listings, click **here**.

4-H Club

4-H is a club designed for middle and high school students. As a club, students will plan field trips, events and activities based on their four core values: head, hands, heart and health. 4-H meets every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in the Youth Center. To participate, students must be registered with CYSS. For more information or to get involved, call the Youth Center at 09721-96-6732.

EDIS

Are you concerned about how your child is developing? If so, call Educational and Developmental Intervention Services to schedule a free screening. Screenings are available to children ages birth to 3 years old. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 09721-96-6257.

Wanted: Youth Sports Coaches and Officials

The Schweinfurt community is looking for coaches and officials for the youth sports program. No experience is

necessary to participate. By registering through Child, Youth and School Services, you will become a certified coach in the National Alliance for Youth Sports. This is a great way to volunteer in the community and earn extra income by officiating. For more information, call CYSS at 09721-96-6822 or email **Derek.r.walker.naf@mail.mil**.

Family Child Care Providers Needed

Help the community and start a new career as a Family Child Care provider. FCC providers maintain a happy home-away-from-home atmosphere (in government-controlled housing only) for children who can't be with their own parents during the day. You can care for your own children in addition to outside customers. All training and education is provided for free. Call 09721-96-6487 for details

Sports, Health and Fitness

Paintball Field Open

Relieve some stress or have some good old-fashioned fun every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rental equipment is available at the Paintball Field. For more information, call Outdoor Recreation at 09721-96-8080.

Thursday Night Bowling Fun League

Enjoy a weekly dose of bowling and fun every Thursday from 7 to 10 p.m! Meet new people and learn a new sport. Open to all ID holders ages 18 and older. Practice round starts at 6:45 p.m. with games beginning promptly at 7 p.m. Cost is \$10 per game to participate. For more information or to register, contact the Kessler Bowling Center on Kessler Field, Bldg. 449, by calling 09721-96-6332 or DSN 354-6332.

Weekly Reminders

Newcomer Meet and Greet

Meet other spouses, learn about the community and get connected here in Schweinfurt every Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Bradley Inn kitchen. The newcomer meet-and-greet initiative links up incoming spouses with seasoned Schweinfurt residents, offering the warm welcome our community is known for. Coffee and refreshments will be served, and children are welcome. For more information or to register, call Army Community Service at 09721-96-6933.

Inclement Weather in Schweinfurt

Know where you can find information on school closures, weather and road conditions. To learn more, click **here**.

ARMED FORCES A G A I N S T DRUNK DRIVING • Vehicle pick-up service for those who have driven their own POV but are too intoxicated to drive home • Available Friday & Saturday nights from 11 p.m. – 5 a.m. • Confidential, available to all DOD cardholders CALL CENTER

0174-804-3898 or 0174-810-7577



Local Flea Markets

Flea markets are a fun way to find a bargain. The Army Community Service Information and Referral program provides a monthly list of flea markets here.

Dental Clinic Space Available

The U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt Dental Clinic now offers space available stand-by appointments for other-than-active-duty eligible beneficiaries. Appointments can only be scheduled 24 hours in advance.

BOSS Meetings

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meetings are the second (at the Warrior Zone) and fourth (at the Finney Recreation Center) Tuesday of every month. For more information, call the Warrior Zone at 09721-96-6082 or the Finney Recreation Center at 09721-96-8476.

Open Mic Night

Come and share your talent with the Warrior Zone every Friday at 8 p.m. to midnight. The event is intended for single Soldiers but open to the entire community. Adults only. No early sign-ups required. To learn more, call 09721-96-6082.

Karaoke

Karaoke all-stars, come and share your talent with the Warrior Zone every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. The event is intended for single Soldiers but open to the entire community. Adults only. No early sign-ups required. For more information, call 09721-96-6082.

Children's Story Time

Bring your child in to the library Wednesdays at 11 a.m. for Children's Story Time.



coming to **THEATERS**

Jack the Giant Slayer Now Showing | 114 Minutes

An ancient war is reignited when a young farmhand unwittingly opens a gateway between our world and a fearsome race of giants. Unleashed on the earth for the first time in centuries, the giants strive to reclaim the land they once lost, forcing the young man, Jack, into the battle of his life to stop them.

Rated PG-13 for intense scenes of fantasy action violence, some frightening images and brief language.

Visit www.aafes.com for more information.



IN THEATERS • March 7 - 13

BAMBERG THEATER • 0951-297-3934

March 7 - This is 40 (R) 7 p.m.

March 8 - Jack the Giant Slayer (PG-13) 7 p.m.

March 9 - Rise of the Guardians (PG) 3 p.m.; Jack the Giant Slayer (PG-13) 7 p.m.

March 10 - Rise of the Guardians (PG) 3 p.m.;

The Guilt Trip (PG-13) 7 p.m. March 11 - The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 7 p.m.

ILLESHEIM THEATER • 09841-83-4546

March 9 - Escape from Planet Earth (PG) 4 p.m.;

A Good Day to Die Hard (R) 7 p.m.

March 10 - Beautiful Creatures (PG) 3 p.m.

KATTERBACH THEATER • 09802-83-1790

March 7 - Warm Bodies (PG-13) 7 p.m.

March 8 - Identity Thief (R) 7 p.m.

March 9 - Rise of the Guardians (PG) 4 p.m.; Jack Reacher (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Jack Reacher (PG-13) / p.m March 10 - The Guilt Trip (PG) 3 p.m.;

Identity Thief (R) 6 p.m.

SCHWEINFURT THEATER • 09721-96-1790

March 7 - Playing for Keeps (PG-13) 7 p.m.

March 8 - A Good Day to Die Hard (R) 7 p.m.

March 9 - Escape from Planet Earth (PG) 4 p.m.; A Good Day to Die Hard (R) 7 p.m.

March 10 - Escape from Planet Earth (PG) 4 p.m.; A Good Day to Die Hard (R) 7 p.m.

March 13 - Beautiful Creatures (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Eco-Friendly Tips

Water-saving Tips

You need to relax with a hot bath? Plug the tub before turning the water on, then adjust the temperature as the tub fills up.

Use the smaller water-saving button for regular flushes, and use a toilet brush to clean your toilet. These practices will not use a lot of water.

Energy-saving Tips

Heat your home – not the planet. Keep doors and windows closed and air the room regularly.

Use retained heat. Turn off cook tops or ovens a few minutes before food has completed cooking. Retained heat finishes the job using less energy.

Recycling

Cleaning the kitchen? Use cotton cloths instead of a disposable kitchen roll.

Keep a reusable or cotton bag in your car when you go shopping.

Trips and Travel Opportunities

Registration for trips begin the 15th of the month before the scheduled trip and must be made no later than the Monday before the scheduled leave date or they may be cancelled. To sign up or for more information, go to Outdoor Recreation. All trips depart and arrive from ODR unless otherwise noted. No refund will be given for no-shows. Military duty restraint or illness will be refunded with documentation.



ANSBACH

Wednesdays Afternoon Ski/Snowboard

\$29

Join the Outdoor Recreation team of professional ski and snowboard instructors and learn to safely slide down the slopes, ride the lifts and enjoy the world's fastest growing winter activities. Depending on the season's snowfall and slop conditions, instruction will be conducted locally at Burgbernheim, between Ansbach and Illesheim. All sessions will depart from Katterbach at 1 p.m., weather permitting. Dates are Feb. 20, 27; and March 6, 13, 20, 27.

March 9 Lermoos, Austria, and Zugspitze

\$45

Skiers and snowboarders can reach spectacular destinations on a variety of one-day ski and snowboard trips to the Alps, including Lermoos, Austria, March 2, and the Zugspitze, Germany's highest mountain, March 9. Lessons are possible based on instructor availability. Trip locations are subject to change depending on snow and slope conditions. Cost is \$45 for transportation and \$59 with ski and snowboard equipment rental. Trips leave Storck Barracks at 4:15 a.m. and Katterbach Kaserne at 5 a.m. and return the same day at approximately 10 p.m.

For more information, call Ansbach Outdoor Recreation at 09802-833225.

BAMBERG

March 7 Tour under Bamberg

\$25

This trip through the tunnels under Bamberg gives participants a view of the city that shouldn't be missed. The tunnels are generally cool and damp, so participants should wear appropriate clothing and bring a flashlight. The trip departs from ODR at 5 p.m. and returns at approximately 7:30 p.m.

March. 15-18 Ski Amade Reigon

\$350

Grab your gear or rent some from us for \$25! With hundreds of kilometers of slopes, there's a little something for everyone. Trip includes transportation, three nights of lodging at double occupancy with dinner and breakfast. DOES NOT INCLUDE LIFT PASSES. Departs from ODR March 15 at 3 a.m. and returns March 18 at approximately 11 p.m.

March 24 Prague, Czech Republic

\$65

Containing one of the world's most pristine and varied collections of architecture, Prague is a vibrant city. Indulge in a Czech beer while exploring Charles Bridge, Prague Castle, Wenceslas, Lesser Quarter and the Old town squares (just to name a few). Trip includes transportation and a city tour. Price is \$55 for children ages 4 to 12; for children ages 3 and younger, \$45.

For more information, call Bamberg Outdoor Recreation at 0951-300-9376.

SCHWEINFURT

March 16-17 Garmisch Weekend Ski Trip

\$159

Two days of skiing and snowbaording in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. The trip departs March 16 and returns March 17 at approximately 11 p.m. The trip costs \$159, which includes transportation, one overnight stay with breakfast and half price on ski and snowboard rentals. Lift ticket is not included.

March 23 Palm Beach Pool Trip

\$15

Enjoy a day at the beach! Meet at ODR and let the crew chauffeur you to Palm Beach where you will spend the day lounging by the pool. Kids and adults are all welcome to attend. The cost for transportation is \$15 per person. Pool Entrance Fee for four hours is 14.50 Euro for adults, 12.50 Euro for youths ages 6 to 15 and 5.50 Euro for children five and younger. Use of Sauna World costs 5 Euro extra. Please note that prices are subject to change based on the facilities discretion.

For more information, call Schweinfurt Outdoor Recreation at 09721-96-8080.

Was ist los in Franken?

By Bianca Sowders, USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

Volksmarch in Franken

Volksmarches have been popular with Americans stationed in Europe for decades, and with winter on its way out and the weather gradually improving, the hiking season is about to pick up again. Participants in Germany can typically choose from 5/6k, 10k or 20k distances; hikers don't start all at once, but within a certain time frame and cover the chosen distance at their own pace. Food and drinks are sold on location and registration is possible on site. It is best to get in touch with the listed point of contact for exact starting times, updates and detailed location information. For other locations within Germany, check the website www.dvv-wandern.de.

Here is a quick look at upcoming Volksmarches in Franconia:

- March 9 and 10 in **Ansbach Elpersdorf** (5/10/20 km) Deutsch-Amerikanischer Wanderclub e.V. Ansbach, 0981/77131 or 0172/7871041, Start time: 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Autohaus Oppel in Elpersdorf.
- March 16 and 17 in Winkelhaid near Altdorf (5/10/20 km) TuS Winkelhaid 1922, 09187/41854, Start time: 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sportparkstr. 2, Sportheim.
- March 16 and 17 in Eggolsheim (5/10 km) Wanderfreunde Markt Eggolsheim, 09545/1815, Start time: 7 a.m. to noon at Josef-Kolb-Str. 10 a, Eggerbach-Halle.
- March 24 in Heilsbronn (5/10 km) Klosterwanderer Heilsbronn e.V. (FR-M), 09822/604260, <u>www.klosterwanderer.de</u>, Start time: 7 a.m. to noon at Hohenzollernhalle.

Bamberger Symphoniker in Schweinfurt

Bamberg Symphonic Orchestra performs in Schweinfurt at Theater der Stadt Schweinfurt (Roßbrunnstraße 20) March 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Health Fair in Bamberg

The annual health fair *Franken aktiv & vital* at the Stechert Arena in Bamberg (Forchheimer Straße 15) takes place March 8 to 10; visitors will find information on wellness and beauty, traveling, fitness and healthy diets. Opening hours are Friday 2 to 10 p.m. and Saturday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission fee for adults is 6 Euros; children and family tickets are available. To learn more, visit www.franken-aktiv-vital.de.

Easter in the Handwerkerhof Nürnberg

Starting March 8 the Handwerkerhof in Nürnberg, a medieval enclosure across from the Hauptbahnhof, will be decked in Easter fashion. The Handwerkerhof is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.; the stores are open from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. To learn more, visit www.handwerkerhof.de.

Musiknacht Herrieden

The Herrieden Music Night with live bands playing in different pubs and restaurants takes place March 9 starting at 8 p.m. To learn more, visit www.kammerevents.de and check the tab "Kneipenjagd."

Kung Fu Kitty in Ansbach

Kung Fu Kitty is playing at the Ansbacher Kammerspiele (Maximilianstr. 27a) March 9, at 8:30 p.m. To learn more, visit www.kammerspiele.com.

Bike and Fun in Fürth

The regional motor bike fair Bike and Fun 2013 is scheduled for March 9 and 10 at the Stadthalle Fürth (Rosenstraße 50). The fair offers the latest models and accessories and even a used bike bazaar. The fair is open Saturday from 1 to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; general admission fee is 5 Euros per person. To learn more, visit www.baf-fuerth.de.

Spring Markets

March 10, brings several spring markets and open stores to the area:

- Herrieden is featuring a spring market with open shop Sunday from 1 to 6 p.m. To learn more, visit www.herrieden.de.
- The Josephi Market in Dinkelsbühl is open from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., while the stores open at 12:30 p.m.
- The spring market in Fürth with carnival rides and a fish market takes place March 9 through 17. The open store Sunday from 1 to 6 p.m. features special events and attractions for children and adults.

Spring Fest Würzburg

The annual Spring Fest in Würzburg at the FestplatzTalavera (Luitpoldstraße) is scheduled for March 9 through 24. Opening hours are Monday through Thursday from 2 to 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 2 p.m. to midnight and Sunday from noon to 10:30 p.m. To learn more, visit www.wuerzburg.de/de/veranstaltungskalender/events-termine/fruehjahrsvolksfest-2012/index.html.

Yesterday – A Tribute to the Beatles 2013 in Nürnberg

A Beatles tribute concert takes place in Nürnberg's Meistersingerhalle (Münchener Straße) March 11 at 8 p.m. To learn more, visit www.meistersingerhalle-nuernberg.de.

Fish Market in Schweinfurt

The traditional fish market on the Marktplatz in Schweinfurt is scheduled for March 14 through 18; the *Marktschreier*, famous "criers" (vendors), are praising their goods in a special and funny way Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. March 17 is also open-store Sunday.

AAFES Corner X Spring has sprung at AAFES

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